

subject: military buttons

Church, Nelly E.
[Portland, OR]

1924

766 Hancock Street,
Portland, Oregon.

The American Numismatic Society,
New York City-

Dear Sirs,-

At the

suggestion of Mabel T. R. Washburn of your
city I am writing you about the buttons in
the enclosed photograph. They were taken
from a burying-ground, of the extinct tribe
of Blackamas Indians near here, along with
turquoise beads that suggest trading with
Mexican or other tribes from that direction.

Then too, this particular phoenix bird with
the swanlike neck we have been unable to find
elsewhere than on Haytian emblems of the
latter part of the 18th century. A coin of the time
of Henri Christophe displays this identical bird
surrounded by the same phrase in Latin
"Ex cineribus nascitur". Capt. Botell, Paris
and Wm L. Cabot N.Y. City - (American Buttonist Society)

are sure the buttons were made in France
the latter part of the 18th century. One guess
is that they were on the uniforms of Gen.
Le Clerc's army sent to Hayti about that time
by Napoleon. Who could confirm this? Have you
any other suggestion or could you put me in
touch with anyone who might have?

Thanking you I am

Respectfully

Nelly E. Church

March 6th 1924.

March 15th, 1924

Miss Nelly E. Church
766 Hancock Street
Portland, Oregon

Dear Madam:

In reply to your favour of March 6th, I am absolutely at a loss to give you any light on the military buttons about which you ask. I will admit that the phoenix on this is very similar to the phoenix shown on several coins in Haiti. The inscription, however, is different although meaning about the same. Without professing to know much about buttons, I would say that these are French. I cannot suggest to you where to write as the only one who could answer your question is Mr. Calder, with whom you have already corresponded.

I am returning, herewith, your photograph.

Very truly yours,

Curator